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Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR
RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

#10/A
BD
1-10-03

Dear Sir:

In response to the June 18, 2002 Official Action (Paper No. 7), please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Replace the three (3) paragraphs at page 32, lines 3-20 with the following:

A/ A charge switchable ion-exchanger was prepared by covalently coupling polyhistidine to 100 μ m glass beads using glutaldehyde by mixing 1 gram of the aminated glass beads with 0.01 % (v/v) glutaldehyde in 0.1M sodium bicarbonate at pH8 containing 20mg polyhistidine. After overnight incubation the beads were washed exhaustively to remove non-covalently bound material and stored in 10mM MES, pH5 containing 0.1 % (v/v) Tween 20.

About 300mg of the 100 μ m derivitised glass beads were added to a 1ml plastic column enclosed at both ends.

A blood sample was incubated with an equal volume of 10mM MES pH5, containing 1% Tween 20, proteases (200 μ g/ml) and 1 mM EDTA.